

Senate Bill 206

By: Senator Williams of the 19th

AS PASSED

AN ACT

To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so as to change certain provisions relating to legislative declarations relative to hunting, fishing, and the taking of wildlife, ownership and custody of wildlife, promotion and right to hunt, trap, or fish, local regulation, and general offenses; to change certain provisions relating to hunting deer with dogs; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended in subsection (c) of Code Section 27-1-3, relating to legislative declarations relative to hunting, fishing, and the taking of wildlife, ownership and custody of wildlife, promotion and right to hunt, trap, or fish, local regulation, and general offenses, by designating the existing provisions of said subsection as paragraph (2) thereof and adding a new paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) To the greatest practical extent, department land management decisions and actions shall not result in any net loss of land acreage available for hunting opportunities on department managed state owned lands that exists on the effective date of this paragraph.”

SECTION 2.

Said title is further amended by striking subsection (c) of Code Section 27-3-17, relating to hunting deer with dogs, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer with dogs on any tract of real property unless a permit for hunting deer with dogs has been issued by the department for such tract to the owner or owners of such tract or the lessee of deer hunting rights for such tract. A permit for hunting deer with dogs shall not be issued to a lessee of deer hunting rights for any tract of real property that is less than 1,000 contiguous acres or to the property owner

or owners for any tract of real property that is less than 250 contiguous acres. Any application for a permit for hunting deer with dogs shall be on such form as prescribed by the department; shall be accompanied by the required application fee; and shall include a written description of the tract boundaries and a map showing key features such as public roads or streams on or bordering the tract and occupied dwellings on adjacent properties. The application must be signed by all persons owning any portion of the tract of real property or an authorized agent thereof. The application fee for such permit shall be \$100.00 for an annual permit or \$25.00 for a two-day permit.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.